

Message Text

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, RH, TZ
SUBJ: RHODESIA: TANGOV INITIAL REACTION TO SALISBURY
ANNOUNCEMENT

FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT ISSUED EVENING OF 16 FEBRUARY BY FOREIGN
MINISTRY:

BEGIN QUOTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA HAS LEARNT
FROM PRESS REPORTS THAT AN AGREEMENT ON AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT
OF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE
ILLEGAL SMITH REGIME AND THE SO-CALLED GROUP OF MODERATE
AFRICAN NATIONALISTS BASED INSIDE RHODESIA. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT
THE CONCESSIONS WHICH THE AFRICAN NATIONALISTS HAVE CONCEDED TO
THE REBEL REGIME ARE WHAT IAN SMITH AND HIS RHODESIAN FRONT
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PARTY HAVE ALWAYS FOUGHT TO ACHIEVE. NOT ONLY HAS THE REGIME
MANAGED TO OBTAIN A RECOGNITION OF THE PRIVILEGED POSITION OF THE
WHITE MINORITY, IT HAS ALSO MANAGED TO OBTAIN FOR THEM THE POWER
WHICH THEY ARE CERTAIN TO USE TO BLOCK ANY ADVANCE BY THE AFRICAN
MAJORITY TOWARDS REAL MAJORITY RULE AND GENUINE INDEPENDENCE.
CLEARLY THEREFORE, THE SO CALLED AGREEMENT HAS SANCTIFIED AND
ENTRENCHED THE HIDEOUS PRACTICE OF RACIALISM IN RHODESIA. FOR

THIS REASON ALONE, THE AGREEMENT MUST BE TOTALLY REJECTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER EQUALLY IMPORTANT REASON WHY THE PRESENT AGREEMENT MUST

CONDEMNED. DESPITE THE EUPHORIA WHICH FOLLOWED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT THERE IS UNDERSTABLE FEAR AMONG THE WHITE COMMUNITY INSIDE RHODESIA THAT THE WAR OF LIBERATION WILL GO ON INSPITE OF THE AGREEMENT. THEY ARE RIGHT. THE WAR OF LIBERATION INSIDE RHODESA WILL CONTINUE TO RAGE WITH INCREASED FEROCITY. IT SHOULD NOT HAVE COME AS SURPRISE TO ANYONE THAT IN THEIR REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT THE PATRIOTIC FRON UNDER WHOSE BANNER THE ARMED STRUGGLE IS BEING PROSECUTED HAS VOWED TO DO JUST THAT. THEY ALONE HAVE THE POWER TO END THE GUERRILA WAR. NEITHER THE SMITH REGIME, NOR THE AFRICAN PARTIES TO THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT CAN HALT THE WAR. AS TANZANIA HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS IN WHICH TO END THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT. ONE IS TO PURSUE THE ARMED STRUGGLE THROUGH TO THE FINISH. THE OTHER IS THROUGH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE REALITIES OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. IN EITHER CASE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS THEY REPRESENT HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY. TO IGNORE THEM IS TO REJECT THE ALTERNATIVE OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS LAST SEPTEMBER, USHERED IN HOPES FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. ALONG UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH MANY OTHER NATIONS, TANZANIA WELCOMED THEM AS FORMING A FIRM BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A SETTLEMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRESENT SMITH INITIATIVE HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. TANZANIA'S VIEW HAS NOT CHANGED, WHICH IS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ALREADY STARTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, OFFER THE BEST CHANCE FOR A JUST NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IT IS UNFORTUNATE AND REGRETTABLE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS PREVARICATING AND EQUIVOATING ON AN INITIATIVE WHICH IS NOT ONLY THEIR OWN, BUT ALSO ONE OVER WHICH THEY HAVE SOUGHT, AND RECEIVED, THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS. END QUOTE. SPAIN

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